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Before the Arizona Corporation Commission

Susan Bitter Smith - Chairman
Bob Stump - Commissioner
Bob Burns - Commissioner
Doug Little - Commissioner
Tom Forese - Commissioner

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

In the matter of Epcor Water Arizona, Inc. of)
a hearing on rate consolidation/deconsolidation)
proposals for possible rate changes for utility)
service in all of its Arizona wastewater districts)

Docket Nos SW-01303A-09-0343
W-01303A-09-0343

I request that an open meeting be held immediately for the judge appointed to the hearing to ensure that the tasks outlined below are completed as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted on December 14, 2015.

Frederick G. Botha

Arizona Corporation Commission

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- to remind Staff, RUCO, Epcor and other intervenors that the Agua Fria district of consumers is being excluded as one of the interested parties by Epcor in their discussions with Staff and RUCO to determine their data and information requirements on consolidation and deconsolidation to be presented by Epcor in April, 2016.

Ms. Diane Smith and her group from Corte Bella and other communities initiated this hearing by petitioning the ACC on the high costs of water and wastewater in the Agua Fria district. The ACC, RUCO and Epcor did not take any action to assist the Agua Fria district until this petition.

As such, consumers in the Agua Fria district are the most interested party in Epcor's discussions. I am one of these consumers and I pay the high rates for water and wastewater.

- to request Epcor to include consumers in the Agua Fria district immediately in any of their discussions on the specification of information requirements for data on consolidation and deconsolidation to be presented by Epcor in April, 2016.

It is too late to wait until April, 2016, as Staff and RUCO and Epcor realize, and are accordingly working hard now at the task, just as consumers in the Agua Fria district are prepared to do.

- to request Epcor to provide the following information for consumers in April, 2016, in a format yet to be specified by consumers with Epcor:

- future five year estimates of plant replacement costs and the associated impact of increased water and wastewater rates for each district to ensure that consumers can compare the advantages and disadvantages of consolidation and deconsolidation.
- information on both costs and number of consumers in the Agua Fria district from the time the district was set up in order to establish clearly whether the district was viable when it was set up. Without such information any mistakes made then might be repeated in the consolidation and deconsolidation options in April, 2016.
- information on the costs and allocation of the wastewater facilities shared currently by Sun City West and Corte Bella. According to some estimates Corte Bella is paying 70% of the costs and making use of 30% of the facilities.
- information on the Agua Fria district's share of the North West Valley plant to establish how fairly these costs have been allocated.

- information on plant performance to determine any malfunctions and the appropriate allocation of costs.
- to begin tracking communities within districts to ensure accurate information.
- to request Epcor to meet with their software supplier, Oracle, and to confirm in writing that Epcor can provide online, internet access to all the information required for consolidation and deconsolidation and that this could have been done at least ten years ago.
- to request Epcor to provide online, internet access to all the information required for consolidation and deconsolidation, just as they do for consumers with their billing and accounts receivable information.

It is Epcor's opinion that data requests are always the most appropriate form of request for information and data during a hearing. How many of their staff use this method to display data? Data requests are far too slow, voluminous, time consuming and complex to follow without expert assistance.

Epcor has all the data needed for the hearing on-line and it can be accessed by their staff usually within a few seconds through the internet on screens. Consumers require the same facilities without any confidential information. If Epcor prefer instead to extract the appropriate data and provide online, internet access instead, consumers will accept this.

- to remind Epcor that the separate cost and billing data for deconsolidation for each district and the combined cost and billing data for consolidation for all districts is expected to have been audited and signed off as correct by an independent, outside auditor and that separate totals for each year must balance.
- to remind Epcor that if these audited and balancing requirements are not met, the ACC will not permit Epcor to bill consumers further until they are provided. Epcor have had long enough to accomplish these basic goals.
- to request Ms. Connie Walczak to confirm whether Epcor is permitted and is currently working with Staff and RUCO to specify their information requirements in terms of the conditions of this hearing.

Previously Ms. Walczak has stated that Epcor were not permitted to work with Staff and RUCO on information requirements and were not doing so, as claimed repeatedly by Epcor.

- to request Epcor to explain whether their refusal to answer my emails is part of their emphasis on the highest levels of customer service.

- to instruct the members of the commission and any person or group associated with this hearing to disclose any financial payments or other types of favors made, in view of the publicity in the press given to two members of the Commission and to specify the penalties, if these amounts are found later to be understated.

- to request Epcor to state whether it is their opinion that agreement in this hearing could and would have been reached already without using lawyers and that costs would have been considerably less. If adults in this country can buy and sell lethal firearms without the assistance of lawyers, surely they can negotiate prices of water without lawyers too.

13 copies to docket control and circulated to the following:

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